

Language Access Tip Sheet for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Individuals Who Do Not Use ASL

There is a wide range of language ability and communication choices among people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. When engaging a person who is deaf or hard of hearing who does not request an ASL interpreter:

1. Ask the individual what his/her best communication method is and what you need to do to get that in place.
2. Provide options including, but not limited to, CART (Computer Assisted Real Time Captioning), notetaking, assistive listening devices, or oral interpreters. These may be most useful for individuals who identify as hard of hearing or later deafened. Please see SOP resources for a communication tip sheet.
3. For individuals who have a combined hearing and vision loss and may identify as deaf-blind, provide options including, but not limited to, close visual range signing and tactile signing. Careful attention to the environment including lighting and room set up may also aid in effective communication. Communication access is very individualized, so it is vital that the worker assess and meet those needs. Please see SOP resources for a communication factsheet.
4. Document the communication needs in the case notes so that all workers employ functional communication strategies to meet individualized needs.
5. If you are unsure of the assistive listening devices and other accommodations available, contact the Out of Home Care Branch in DCBS central office at (502)-564-5995 for more information.
6. Some may use foreign sign language or have an intellectual disability. Please call DCBS central office or the DBHDID Program Administrator to instructions on using a deaf interpreter or a certified deaf interpreter.